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Montgomery & Poultney Elementary Schools Receive Title I Reward Grants

MONTPELIER – Montgomery and Poultney Elementary Schools were recently recognized by Education Commissioner Armando Vilaseca as the State's first Title I Reward Schools. Both schools were commended for achieving Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) on the New England Comprehensive Assessment System (NECAP) for two consecutive years while achieving academic gains within the subpopulation of students in poverty. Each school will receive reward grants totaling \$10,000.

"Montgomery Elementary Principal Beth O'Brien and Poultney Elementary Principal Kristen Caliguiri are strong educational leaders who have brought a collaborative approach to their respective buildings," Vilaseca said. "They embrace and model an approach that is caring, fun and above all, student-centered."

Both principals agree their work is on-going and that "continuous improvement and high expectations" are the norm for students and staff alike.

"We plan to spend the money to enhance 21st Century learning opportunities for our students," said Montgomery Elementary Principal O'Brien. "We are a small school with very limited resources. Staff members wear many hats and assume many duties outside of their classroom teaching responsibilities."

Both schools will be using the Title I grants to engage their struggling learners. Technology, whether on the classroom wall or in students' hands, can increase engagement, provide multiple avenues for learning, and develop habits for continued learning success.

"It takes a strong team of all involved in the educational community, as well as faculty and staff who are most dedicated in guiding students to reach their fullest potential," said Poultney Principal Kristen Caliguiri. "We plan to use the grant to purchase a SmartBoard and iPads in an effort to enhance student learning outcomes through technology integration in the content areas and by allowing students to utilize a variety of learning tools, intervention programs and applications."

For more information regarding Title I and Title I Reward Schools, please contact David Baroudi at (802) 828-5156 or david.baroudi@state.vt.us.